

CLAIMS

1. A method of doing an e-commerce business which enables customers to purchase products, such as fabrics, directly from their suppliers, such as their manufacturers, through an internet web site containing information about the products, comprising:

- 5 - establishing a database with data entries for each of the products, consigned by its supplier to the business; the database comprising data for at least one of the price, composition, color, design and supply of each product; and data of the database being accessible to the customers, suppliers and the business via the web site.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein data of the database for the supply of each product of a supplier are continuously updated as the supply increases or decreases and are accessible via the web site to the supplier but not to customers or other suppliers.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the data of the database for each product includes both a price to the business, set by the product's supplier, and a price to the customers, set by the business.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the price, discounts and/or promotions, set by the supplier for each of its products, is accessible via the web site to the supplier but not to customers or other suppliers.

5. The method of claim of 3 wherein the data of the database for the price to the customers of each product also includes discounts and/or promotions to the business, set by the product's supplier, and discounts and/or promotions to the customers, set by the business.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein each supplier can change, in the database, the supplier's set discounts and/or promotions to the business for each of the supplier's products, which results automatically in an eventual change in the business' set discounts and/or promotions to the customers for the product.
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7. The method of claim 6 wherein the business can also change, in the database, the business' set discounts and/or promotions to the customers for the supplier's product.

8. The method of claim 3 or 5 wherein each supplier can change, in the database, the supplier's set price to the business for each of the supplier's
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products, which results automatically in an eventual change in the business' set price to the customers for the product.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein each supplier can change, in the database, the supplier's set discounts and/or promotions to the business for each of the supplier's products, which results automatically in an eventual change in the business' set discounts and/or promotions to the customers for the product.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the business can also change, in the database, the business' set discounts and/or promotions to the customers for the supplier's product.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the price, discounts and/or promotions, set by the supplier for each of its products, is accessible via the web site to the supplier but not to customers or other suppliers.

12. The method of claims 11 wherein data of the database for the supply of each product of a supplier are continuously updated as the supply increases or decreases and are accessible via the web site to the supplier but not to customers or other suppliers.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the business automatically pays each supplier for each sale of each product of the supplier to a customer after the customer orders the product and is automatically charged for the sale of the product.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the product is a fabric.

15. A method of doing an e-commerce business which enables customers to purchase products, such as fabrics, directly from their suppliers, such as their manufacturers, through an internet web site containing information about the products, comprising:

- establishing a database with data entries for each of the products, consigned by its supplier to the business; and
- establishing a customers site on the web site that is accessible to the customers and a suppliers site on the web site that is accessible to the suppliers;
- wherein data of the database that are accessible to the customers on the customers site are different from data of the database that are accessible to the suppliers on the suppliers site.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein data of the database for the supply of each product of each supplier are continuously updated as the supply increases or decreases and are accessible, via the web site, to the supplier on the suppliers site but not to customers on the customers site.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein only the supplier of a fabric can access, on the suppliers site, data of the database on the sales and supply of the fabric.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein each supplier can access, on the suppliers site, data of the database on sales trends of products of other suppliers.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein data of the database are continuously updated and the different data of the database, accessible via the customers and suppliers sites, are simultaneously and continuously updated.

20. The method of claim 15 or 19 wherein the data of the database for the price of each product includes both the price to the business, set by the product's supplier, and the price to consumers, set by the business; wherein each supplier can change, in the database, the supplier's set price for each of
5 the supplier's products, which results automatically in an eventual change in the business' set price to consumers for the product; and wherein the supplier's set price for each of the supplier's products is accessible to the supplier on the suppliers site but is not accessible to customers on the customers site.

21. The method of claim of 20 wherein the data of the database for the price to the customers of each product also include discounts and/or promotions to the business, set by the product's supplier, and/or discounts and/or promotions to the customers, set by the business.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein data of the database for the supply of each product of each supplier are continuously updated as the supply increases or decreases and are accessible, via the web site, to the supplier on the suppliers site but not to customers on the customers site.

5 23. The method of claim 22 wherein only the supplier of a fabric can access, on the suppliers site, data of the database on the sales and supply of the fabric.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein each supplier can access, on the suppliers site, data of the database on sales trends of products of other suppliers.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the product is a fabric

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the business automatically pays each supplier for each sale of each product of the supplier to a customer after the customer orders the product and is automatically charged for the sale of the product.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the product is a fabric.

28. The method of claim 1 or 15 wherein the business automatically pays each supplier for each sale of each product of the supplier to a customer after the customer orders the product and is automatically charged for the

5 sale of the product.